

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 24. 1708.

I Am entred into an unhappy Subject, in my last, I mean the Article of Emisaries and Mercenaries; I wish, I could, as I hinted, turn them all Inside Outward, and let the World see the Practices of these Firebrands of the World, and the Poverty of the Parties which employ them.

What a Discovery would this make to the World? The great Men of the World that bribe Men to form their Characters, what must they be, but some such whose Actions wold not speak for themselves? Juff Deeds need no Defender, if our great Men hire Scribblers to excuse their Actions, it must follow, that their Actions want Excuses; and why do not these People tell us, which are these Actions? — I confess, it has not been many Years since the Actions

of our Governors could be defended or excused at all, and some Men are so used to Railing at the Government, that they cannot refrain, tho' they have nothing to complain of. Accurs'd of GOD and all good Men be he, *who calls Evil Good, and Good Evil*, for Fear or Favour of any Man or Party of Men in the World.

If I might give a short Hint to an impartial Writer, it should be to tell him his Fate; if he resolves to venture upon the dangerous Precipice of telling unabash'd Truths, let him proclaim War with Mankind, *a-la-mode le Pais de Pole*, neither to give nor take Quarter; if he tells the Crimes of great Men, they fall upon him with, the Iron Hands of the Law; if he tells their Virtues, *when they have any, which perhaps is seldom enough too*, then the Mob attacks him.

Him with Slander —— But if he regards Truth, let him expect Martyrdom on both sides, and then he may go on fearless — And this is the Course I take my self.

But before I enter upon the History of our State Mercenaries, let me make two Observations to you, which I had frequent Illustrations of while I was in the North, and some both before and since.

1. That the Mercenaries of Parties that are really so, that turn their Tales, and their Coats, and their Sides, as the Golden Gale blows, and that are plainly to be detected in these Practices; these are the Men that open their Mouths loudest, and clamour most at Bribes and Rewards, and fall upon every Body as mercenary, to conceal the Camelion Practice they pursue themselves.

2. Next to these are a Sort of People, who, like some Women, are honest of their Bodies, because no Body will make Whores of 'em; that would be mercenary, and would be employ'd, but can find no Party so foolish as to think them capable of the Busyness; and these are some of the loudest against Emissaries.

How odd must it be to see a famous Writer in our Day cry out against Rewards, and against writing for Parties, who suffer'd himself to be employ'd against the Interest of his Country, to oppose the late happy Union of Great Britain, and raise false Suggestions upon both the Government and Constitution, in order to fill the two Nations with mutual Jealousies, and form some General Dislike, that might render the thing impracticable; methinks such Men should be the last that should enter into an Enquiry after Mercenaries.

And what shall we say to another Sort of People, who, if they are employ'd at all, are always employ'd in the Mischiefs and Destruction of their Country, and who professing themselves Protestants have suffer'd themselves to be Tools of that Party, who strike at the Root of the Protestant Religion. Pray, Gentlemen, look at these Kinds of Folks, read their Writing, if any Man undertakes the Defence of his Country's Liberties, if he defends the People that oppose themselves to these Mischiefs, if he

offers but to say this or that Man, or this or that Prince has espoused the true Principle of Liberty if he offers to defend the Revolution, do Justice to the Author of it, or detect the Mischiefs of Tyranny; these are the first to call him Mercenary, and an Emissary.

He that defends Truth, and Truth only, cannot be mercenary; he that does nothing but what it is his Duty to do, may be rewarded, but he cannot be bribed; he is a Mercenary, who to Day writes for one side, to morrow for another; who to day defends Tyranny and Passive-Obedience, to morrow takes up Arms against his Prince; to day swears to a Revolution-Settlement, to morrow defends Tacking and all Kinds of National Extravagancies; that writes to excuse the Guilty, or accuse the Innocent; to misrepresent, aggravate, put false Gosses and false Lights on some Causes, or some Actions, which will not bear a true; and wherever you find these Impostors, let them be brought forth to publick Shame, let them be detected, punish'd and expos'd to the utmost, and above all let those be exposed who employ them.

To say he is an Emissary, who speaks Truth to the true End of Truth, i. e. Peace, that defends Liberty, supports Constitution, pleads for Justice, discourages Vice, and on all Occasions appears in the Cause of our Country's Good; is the same Thing, as if you should call your Ministers Emissaries of JESUS CHRIST, and refuse to hear them, because they are employ'd and paid for their Labour.

And after all, the Price of Truth is so cheap, and the Labours of our Volunteers in this Service so low priz'd, that for my Part I see no Reason to suspect those, that write for Truth, being paid for it; first of all, the Cause of Truth and Liberty is not so well espoused, that any Body should expect Rewards for defending it; Trickling and Shifting is now the Mode, and this wants Champions; the Necessity, they that are supported by it are in, of the Help of Scribblers and Emissaries, obliges them to keep them up with Rewards, but a just Cause stands by it self.

We have had a famous Instance of this in the Affair of the Union lately transacted; I have heard of, and seen something of it too, that a Crowd of Volunteers lifted themselves against it, and great Charges were beflow'd in writing, printing and soliciting against it all over both Kingdoms, and especially in the North, and some People might easily be named, who, we know, could not set one Foot before another in it without a Supply—But in the Defence of the Union, and to open the Eyes of the People to the Happiness of their Country, I never knew of one that stirr'd a Step, but have complain'd of being

forgotten, abandon'd and neglected; some indeed have cry'd up their own Merit, and adding Importunities to their other Services, have been rewarded for what they never did, and the Opposers of the general cause make no Complaints at all; but the truth of the Case is this, they that did for it did but their Duty, and they that claim Payment for doing their Duty, do not know what their Duty is. My next shall say something to the Historical Part of this Mischief, and show you, who brought the Custom of hiring Tools into the World, and who now carries it on.

MISCELLANEA.

I entered a vast Ocean of Business in the last Paper, I hope, you do not expect I should fail through it with a fair Wind; but let what Devils and Storms will rise in the Voyage, I am launch'd out, and shall venture the rest.

I lay it down as the Foundation of my Discourse, that our Trade having met with Interruptions, and been thrown into Convulsions by the Accident of this execrative War, we ought to think of putting Things upon a new Foot, and forming our several Articles of Trade, so as may best conduce to the great End of Trade, the supporting our Manufactures, and the employing our Poor.

I began with showing you what Revolutions in Trade have already been brought to pass to our Advantage, of which I mentioned only Four.

The Opening the Flanders Trade.

The Prohibition of East India Silks, &c.

The Change of the French Wine Trade to the Portuguese Wines.

The Beginning to work on foreign Manufactures.

I shall hint at some Revolutions yet to be made in our Trade, which may farther assist us in the main Point, and serve as Equivalents to the Interruptions of our general Trade by the War, and some of these are,

1. The New Found-Land Trade, which

we have made great Complaints about losing, and not without Reason, but may now with infinite Advantage entirely abandon, let who will take it up, and we may supply that Trade both upon easier Charge, equal in Plenty and Goodness on the North and West Side of Scotland, employing our own People, for such they now ought to be esteem'd, our own Shipping, and with less Hazard sooner and cheaper at Market, than is possible from the Banks of New Found Land, by which you will in the most effectual Manner destroy the French Fishery there, since you may make the Voyage, and obtain the Loading with half the Time and Expence.

2. The making of Calicos, Muslins, and all Sorts of Cotton Manufactures in the North of Britain, equal in Goodness, and in a little Time near as cheap, but every way more to our Advantage than fetching them from India, great Improvements in which have already been made there.

3. Facting into the farther making or imitating of foreign Manufactures, which now we purchase from abroad, and particularly those of Linnen, Paper, &c.

4. Improving and extending our Colonies and Trade in America, Africa and Muscovy, in order to increase the Consumption of our Manufactures, and secure an Employment to our People, let the Accidents o' War be what they will

5. Regulations of our Home Consumption, to preserve the great and not rightly valued Article of Circulation of Trade, which has been attempted by so many ignorant Projectors, tho' Blessed be GOD, hitherto without Success.

6. Opening the French Trade, so far as may consist with preserving the Ballance on our own side; which I shall demonstrate is easie to do.

To all these I purpose to say something as Occasion will permit; I begin, however remote to the Particular, with some Generals, which I lay down as Maxims suited to our present Circumstance.

1. That there are yet Ways and Means left us to make our selves, *in part Amends*, for the Interruptions which the War has given to our Trade. 2. That it is our great Interest to study and find out such Ways for the carrying on our Trade, as may keep up the Life and Being of our Manufactures under the present Discouragements of the War, that our People may feel as little of the Calamity, as possible. 3. The Keeping up our Manufactures is the only Support of our whole Nation, and without which we could neither carry on our War abroad, nor preserve our Government at home. 4. Manufactures are the Life of the Nation, the Work employs the Poor, the Poor consume the Provisions which are the Produce, the Consumption of Provisions keeps up the Value of Lands, the Value of Lands pays Taxes, the Taxes support the War, the War defends the Government, the Government our Religion and Liberty; and thus, by a noble Chain of Causes and Consequences, the whole publick Welfare turns upon this one Glorious Article of Commerce. I shall be more particular in my next.

* * * The Gentleman, who has sent the Author an *Anigma*, with the Promise of a Prize to him that solves it, is desir'd, if he expects to have the said *Anigma* publish'd, to send in his Prize to Mr. Matthews, the Printer; that the Gentlemen, that may claim the same, may have Reason to be satisfy'd they shall receive it; or if he does not think fit to send the Prize, he is desir'd to send Word where the Prize shall be demanded, and of whom; and to send the true Solution of the Riddle seal'd up, to lie fairly unopen'd, till the Day appointed, as it was done before. Otherwise his Riddle cannot be fairly Publish'd

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